

HABS-MD - 913

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MD.

13-DARL

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Kirk House  
Darlington  
Harford Co.  
Maryland

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013

ADDENDUM TO:  
KIRK HOUSE  
Darlington Road, west side (State Route 161)  
Darlington  
Harford County  
Maryland

HABS MD-513  
*HABS MD, 13-DARL, 1-*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

## KIRK HOUSE

HABS No. MD- 513

- Location:** 1034 Main Street, Darlington, Harford County, Maryland.  
The coordinates for the Kirk House are 76.121137 W and 39.382129 N, and they were obtained through Google Earth in November 2011 with, it is assumed, NAD 1983. There is no restriction on the release of the locational data to the public.
- Significance:** The Kirk House, built c. 1810, is one of the oldest buildings in the village of Darlington and in northeastern Harford County. Located at the main crossroads of Darlington, it was likely originally used both as a residential and commercial structure.
- Description:** The Kirk House is a stone structure with an L-shaped footprint. The main block of the house is a five bay, side gable form 2 ½ stories high with brick chimneys flush at each end of the ridge line. The rear ell is 1 ½ stories with a brick chimney flush at the gable end. A one-story hipped roof wood porch shelters the center entrance on the main façade. A two-story wood gallery appears on the north wall of the rear ell, facing the courtyard formed by the L-plan. The walls are constructed of carefully dressed local Wissahickon schist and Port Deposit granite laid in a random ashlar pattern. Large gray granite quoins accent the corners of the main façade and the same stone is used as window lintels. The slate roof was quarried in nearby Cardiff.
- History:** The Kirk House is named for the father and son physicians who lived and practiced here from the 1890s until 1968. The village of Darlington began as a rural Quaker settlement during the first half of the eighteenth century. The Quakers remained a strong presence in the village, which became a center for trade in northeastern Harford County during the first half of the nineteenth century. Much of this trade was prompted by the growth of the Susquehanna River fishing industry and the construction of the Susquehanna and Tidewater Canal.
- Sources:** Christopher Weeks, *An Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 340.
- Historian:** Lisa Pfueller Davidson, HABS Historian, 2006.
- Project Information:** This short form history was prepared to supplement photographic documentation of Harford County, Maryland. During 2005 HABS staff photographer James Rosenthal photographed a series of sites in Harford County in preparation for the *Buildings of Maryland* publication. Maryland Historical Trust sponsored the photography project and is producing *Buildings of Maryland* as part of the Society of Architectural Historians' *Buildings of the United States* series.